

**GENESEE COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2007 @ 10:00 A.M.**

**MINUTES**

**(1) CALL TO ORDER - 10:15 A.M.**

**(2) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 22, 2007 REGULAR MEETING**

**Discussion:** There are no corrections or additions to the minutes.

**Action Taken:** Motion by Commissioner Lucas, supported by Commissioner Washington to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2007 regular meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8-0**

**(3) OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION**

- a. John Kreutzfeldt asked that the Commission direct park employees to spray the poison ivy located in high traffic areas in Flushing County Parks.
- b. Tyler Kieffer of Grand Blanc High School presented an overview of his Eagle Scout project. He made fishing line recycle bins and installed them at nine fishing locations in the Genesee County Parks.

**(4) COMMUNICATIONS**

- a. Thank you letters - see attached in Commission packet
- b. Insight BCI: Huckleberry Railroad Garage - copy in Commission packet - We continue to receive good news about environment at the garage.
- c. Community Foundation of Greater Flint Endowment Fund - Check received for 6464.47.
- d. Quota International: Grant for Deaf Interpreter at Day out With Thomas event.
- e. Michigan Recreation & Parks Assoc.: Induction of Kenneth Smithee

**(5) REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL**

- c. Letters to Fair Board and MDEQ re: fuel spill - Insight's letter in Commission Packet. Michigan Dept of Environmental Quality would like to see a map locating the diesel tank and then they will consider closure of the issue. There has been no response from the Fair Board
- d. Alicia Piotrowski Complaint -*Information* Mr. Barkey updated the Commission on the recent motion filed to compel Ms Piotrowski to make her complaint clear. An amended complaint has been filed and Mr. Barkey has been served. Her lengthy claim is that some of the activities taking place on the For-Mar land violate the restrictions set forth by the Merkley Trust.
- c. **Consent Resolution:** Mr. Barkey researched the process of combining multiple items of the agenda under one "consent" resolution. Many municipalities do this and the requirement is to have a written procedure. Written procedure was given to the commissioners for their consideration. Mr. Barkey explained the complete procedure, which is described in the memorandum in the Commission packet.

**Discussion:** Commissioner Krapohl confirmed that the consent resolution items would always be included in the Commission Packet which is sent in advance of each Commission meeting.

**Motion to approve the use of a consent resolution on Parks Commission agenda items.**

**Action Taken:** Motion to accept recommendation: Commissioner Lucas,  
Support: Commissioner Washington

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8-0**

**(6) DIRECTOR'S STAFF REPORT**

**A. PARKS STATUS REPORT.** A copy of each staff report is in the Commission packet. Ms McMillan highlighted the Answer Book advertisement given to each Commissioner and the 2007 version of the GCPRC litterbag.

Update on the Day Out With Thomas ticket sales: as of 4-12-07 morning 4,233 tickets have been sold and other than the Family Fun Guide, no advertisements have been published yet.

**B. HERB SOCIETY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT** (see agreement enclosed in Commission packet)

**C. GOOSE ROUND-UP RESOLUTION** (see copy of resolution in Commission packet) This resolution represents an aggressive approach to managing water quality on Mott Lake. Last year there were no closings due to e-coli bacteria at Bluebell Beach.

**D. RESOLUTION FOR REVISED PARK RULES**

**Discussion:** The current rules have been in existence since 1968 with no significant amendments in the last couple decades. Our goal has been to update the rules. Updates are needed to reflect current State of Michigan laws and to take into account current technology used by visitors and staff. Corporation Counsel office has reviewed the revisions with only minor corrections. The Board of Commissioners as well as the Lapeer County Board of Commissioners must review and approve these revisions as they apply to properties held by the Genesee County Parks & Recreation Commission. Commissioner Krapohl noted some changes suggested in executive session that did not change the content, only the order of the rules.

Further discussion concerned Section 24, personal conduct and the section concerning the removal of mushrooms.

With regard to the mushroom picking issue, we do not currently have a permit process for mushroom picking. The present policy is: nothing is removed from the parks i.e. flora, fauna or mushroom. The wording changed to mushroom rather than fungi, but the intent of the rule was left as it was in previous park rules in order to be consistent with prohibiting removal of any items from the parks. The Commission can, at any time, institute a permit process for mushroom picking.

With respect to both items discussed, Ms McMillan stated that all park rules are enforced according to a standard of reasonableness.

**Motion for the proposed resolution for revision of park rules.**

**Action Taken:** Motion to accept resolution: Commissioner Washington  
Support: Commissioner Speed

Roll Call: Yeas: Bradshaw, Henry, Krapohl, Lucas, Speed, Washington  
Nays: Ranger, Wright  
Absent: Bogardus, Prater

**MOTION CARRIED 6-2**

**E. RECOMMENDATION FOR DESIGN SERVICES BID TO BE AWARDED TO ROWE ENGINEERING FOR FOR-MAR MEMORIAL GARDENS**

**Discussion:** Ms. McMillan recommended that the bid from Rowe Engineering be accepted for the For-Mar Memorial Gardens. Funding for this project, from private and public sources, will be sought as well. A high priority is to make the gardens barrier free and accessible to not only individuals who may have physical mobility issues but also to those who may have visual impairments. Rowe Engineering's bid is \$6,000.00

**Motion of support to award a contract for For-Mar Nature Preserve and Arboretum Memorial Garden design to Rowe Incorporated in the amount of \$6,000.00.**

**Action Taken** - Motion to support bid: Commissioner Wright  
Support: Commissioner Washinton

Roll Call: Yeas: Bradshaw, Henry, Krapohl, Ranger, Speed, Washington, Wright  
Nays: Lucas  
Absent: Bogardus, Prater

**F. RECOMMENDATION TO FILL CHIEF RANGER VACANCY.**

**Discussion:** Ms McMillan recommends that the Commission allow the vacant position to be filled. This is not a new position. Position has been vacant for approximately seven years. Increased usage of the parks has created a need to operate more similar to a regular police agency.

**Motion to support the director's recommendation to fill the Chief Park Ranger position.**

**Action Taken:** Motion to accept recommendation: Commissioner Lucas  
Support: Commissioner Washington

No vote was taken due to a request by Commissioner Henry for time to review the job description before further consideration of this issue. There is another motion:

**Motion to postpone the previous motion on the table until the April 26 Commission meeting.**

**Action Taken:** Motion to table issue: Commissioner Washington  
Support: Commissioner Bradshaw

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8-0**

**G. FOOD SERVICE CONTRACT**

**Discussion:** Ms. McMillan recommends that a contract be awarded to Stonegate Banquet Centre for catering and food service operations at Crossroads Village and Huckleberry Railroad. The formal bid process was followed.

**Motion to support award of contract for food service at Crossroads Village and Huckleberry Railroad to Stonegate Banquet Centre for calendar year 2007.**

**Action Taken:** Motion to award contract: Commissioner Wright  
Support: Commissioner Ranger

Roll Call: Yeas: Bradshaw, Henry, Krapohl, Lucas, Ranger, Washington, Wright  
Nays: None  
Absent: Prater, Bogardus, Speed (left meeting at 11:10 a.m.)

**MOTION CARRIED 7-0**

**H. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS USER SURVEY**

**Discussion:** Quotes were solicited for the project from C.A.E.R and SSRI and a third company that declined to provide a quote. Ms McMillan recommends that the Commission approve the contract to the University of Michigan-Flint Center for Applied Environmental Research in the amount of \$17,962.00. We used the same scope of work with each company to equally compare quotes. One company that submitted a quote is a "for-profit" therefore it was quite a difference in price quotes.

**Motion to support awarding the contract for Capital Improvement Survey and to authorize the director to sign the contract with University of Michigan-Flint Center for Applied Environmental Research.**

**Action Taken:** Motion to award contract: Commissioner Ranger  
Support: Commissioner Washington

Roll Call: Yeas: Wright, Washington, Krapohl, Lucas, Henry, Bradshaw, Ranger  
Nays: None  
Absent: Prater, Speed, Bogardus

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7-0**

**I. RATIFICATION OF PAYMENT OF BILLS FOR THE TIME PERIOD OF MARCH 8, 2007 THROUGH MARCH 26, 2007.**

**Discussion:** Ms McMillan recommended approval. No additional questions or corrections.

**Motion to support for ratification of payment of bills.**

**Action Taken:** Motion to approve: Commissioner Ranger  
Support: Commissioner Washington

Roll Call: Yeas: Washington, Wright, Lucas, Bradshaw, Krapohl, Henry, Ranger  
Nays: None  
Absent: Speed, Bogardus, Prater

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7-0**

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**J. RATIFICATION OF COMMISSION INVESTMENTS**

**Discussion:** Ms McMillan recommends approval

**Motion of support for ratification of Commission investments.**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7-0**

**(7) OTHER BUSINESS**

Reminder about the Volunteer Dinner on Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Commissioner Krapohl stated that our Tree of Light was featured on a brochure about a plan to bring more tourism to Michigan.

## **(8) OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMISSIONERS TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION**

Commissioner Wright asked for clarification about the Ranger position. Ms McMillan stated: We currently have 3 full time Rangers and we believe it is reasonable to expect that the position will be filled by an existing full time Park Ranger based on the qualification and interest expressed by an existing employee although there are no guarantees. If we fill the position from within we would continue to employ one chief and two other full time rangers and the vacancy resulting from the existing employee leaving a park ranger position left would not be filled. If we filled the position with an employee from another department, one of our current rangers would be laid off so the number of full time rangers (including the Chief) would remain at three. All of our positions, whether they be supervisory or coordinating are "working supervisors". We do not have the depth in our department to afford supervisory employees to stay in their offices so all full time rangers, including the Chief, will continue to be present in the field.

Additionally Commissioner Wright questioned whether we have a poison ivy eradication program. Ms McMillan stated that we do not. It is a part of the natural environment. If it is growing around something like a swing set, every effort is made to remove it. Understanding that the standard of reasonableness will be applied to what is considered active-use areas, Mr. Wright requested that park staff look for poison ivy. Commissioner Henry supported Mr. Wright's request that if poison ivy is found in an active-use area we need to address it (removing the poison ivy), understanding that it cannot be completely abolished but if the ivy is abolished where exposure is, it would be helpful. Ms McMillan stated that we currently make a reasonable effort to control poison ivy and will continue with those efforts and report back to the Commission directly.

Mr. Bradshaw requested information about the Coldwater and Branch Rd issue. Ms McMillan will bring back more information at a later date.

Commissioner Lucas thanked Ms McMillan for coming to Buick Local 599 retirees meeting. She addressed over 250 people and did a great job.

Commissioner Krapohl stated that Stonegate Banquet Centre comes highly recommended.

## **(9) OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION**

John Kreutzfeldt stated that he has quotes from three dates from park directors in which they say they will spray in high use areas. To his knowledge he has not seen any spraying.

## **(10) ADJOURNMENT**

President Krapohl adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Recorded and transcribed by:  
Deborah Wilkes, Secretary  
Parks\M041207